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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) An illumination device comprising:

a light source;

an optical fiber bundle;

a coupling-in optical system which couples the light of said light source into a first end of said fiber bundle, wherein the coupling-in optical system having a large numerical entrance aperture;

a coupling-out optical system which couples out the light emerging from a second end of said optical fiber bundle;

an illuminating optical system which illuminates an image field;

and

a homogenizing optical system which is arranged between said coupling-out optical system and said illuminating optical system, wherein said homogenizing optical system homogenizes the nonuniform intensity distribution

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in the image field of the light emerging from said optical fiber bundle, and wherein homogenization occurs only in an intermediate image plane ~~that is outside of an object~~, and this homogenization is performed only by the homogenizing optical system.

4. (currently amended) An illumination device comprising:

a light source;

an optical fiber bundle;

a coupling-in optical system which couples the light of said light source into a first end of said fiber bundle, wherein the coupling-in optical system having a large numerical entrance aperture NA that is greater than or equal to 0.60;

a coupling-out optical system which couples out the light emerging from a second end of said optical fiber bundle;

an illuminating optical system which illuminates an image field;
and

a homogenizing optical system which is arranged between said coupling-out optical system and said illuminating optical system, wherein said homogenizing optical system homogenizes the nonuniform intensity distribution in the image field of the light emerging from said optical fiber bundle, and

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wherein homogenization occurs only in an intermediate image plane ~~that is outside of an object~~, and this homogenization is performed only by the homogenizing optical system.

5-6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A coordinate measuring instrument comprising:

a horizontally X-Y displaceable measurement stage for receiving a substrate with a feature that is to be measured;

an illumination system including

a light source,

an optical fiber bundle,

a coupling-in optical system before the optical fiber bundle,

a coupling-out optical system after the optical fiber bundle,

an illuminating optical system for illuminating an image field, and

a homogenizing optical system which is arranged between said coupling-out optical system and said illuminating optical system, said homogenizing optical system homogenizes the non-uniform intensity distribution

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in the image field of the light emerging from the optical fiber bundle, wherein the light of said light source is picked off via said coupling-in optical system with a large numerical entrance aperture, and is coupled into said optical fiber bundle; and

a detector device for determining the ~~values of X and Y~~ coordinates of the feature within the X-Y displaceable measurement stage.

8. (currently amended) A coordinate measuring instrument comprising:

a horizontally X-Y displaceable measurement stage for receiving a substrate with a feature that is to be measured;

an illumination system including

a light source,

an optical fiber bundle,

a coupling-in optical system before the optical fiber bundle,

a coupling-out optical system after the optical fiber bundle,

an illuminating optical system for illuminating an image field, and

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a homogenizing optical system which is arranged between said coupling-out optical system and said illuminating optical system, said homogenizing optical system homogenizes the nonuniform intensity distribution in the image field of the light emerging from the optical fiber bundle, wherein the light of said light source is picked off via said coupling-in optical system with a large numerical entrance aperture NA that is greater than or equal to 0.60, and is coupled into said optical fiber bundle; and

a detector device for determining the ~~values of X and Y~~ coordinates of the feature within the X-Y displaceable measurement stage.

9. (previously presented) The coordinate measuring instrument of claim 8, wherein the feature is an edge.

10. (previously presented) The coordinate measuring instrument of claim 7, wherein the feature is an edge.